Working of Public Sector Units

1903. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement made by the Minister of Energy in the meeting of the standing committee on labour on the 22nd September, 1986 to the effect that public sector had fallen from the commanding heights to the demanding depths and it was indeed a bottomless pit where any amount of resources could be dumped;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) The Energy Minister's address delivered on 22-9-86 was to the Standing Labour Committee. While emphasising the necessity for full oc-operation and participation of the workers and unions the Energy Minister has drawn their attention to the vast scope that exists for further improving public sector performance. While emphasing the urgent need and to drive home the immediate necessity for active co-operation and support of the workers and union leaders for solving the economic problems of the country the Minister has stated that the public sector had fallen from the commanding height to the demanding depths and it was indeed a bottomless pit where any amount of resources could be dumped.

(c) There is of course enough scope for further improvement in public sector performance. Various steps have been taken by the Govt. to better the performance of the public enterprises. While the steps taken would vary from enterprise to enterprise depending on specific individual problems, some of the general measures taken include *inter-alia* close monitoring of performance of individual enterprises by the Administrative Ministries/Departments, technology upgradation, modernisation, product diversification, structural re-organisation, improvement of productivity and quality, cost reduction and cost control, better inventory management encouragement of labour participation in management etc.

Storage facility in Antop Hill, Bombay

1904. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct Rs 34 crore project for constructing storage facilities for hazardous and extra hazardous chemicals in Antop Hill a north-eastern locality in Bombay;

(b) if so, what will be the estimated storage capacity of dangerous chemicals in such warehouses spread over 19-acre site where about 1.5 million Bombayites are living within a radius of one k.m.; and

(c) what are the reasons for constructing such storage facilities for dangerous chemicals in close proximity to densely populated residential areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Central Government has no such proposal. However, a project in this regard was before the Government of Maharashtra, constructing work on which has been halted.